

Secret Party Conclaves Are Mystifying to Women

Newly Enfranchised Delegates, Though Annoyed by Vagaries of Convention Activity, Are Sure Their Showing Will Earn Equal Representation

By Hannah Mitchell

CHICAGO, June 12.—Now that they've had a real taste of national politics, what do the women think of it?

There are three classes of women who attended the Republican convention and took active part in its work: those who had seats as delegates or alternates, those who were on advisory committees and state committees, and those who were working for some candidate.

Of course these classes are overlapping. For instance, Mrs. John Glover of South Carolina held a position as delegate-at-large from Kentucky and was also chairman of the woman's division of the National Committee and state chairman of the Republican Women's Executive Committee of Kentucky. Mrs. Arthur Livermore was state executive chairman of the New York women and an alternate-at-large; Mrs. W. Y. Morrison of Kansas was assistant secretary of the convention and an active worker in the Leonard Wood headquarters; Mrs. Frank Dodson, of Iowa, is the woman chairman from her state and a delegate in the convention. There are many others who doubled their work.

On the whole, the new members of the party are feeling pretty well satisfied with their showing in the first national convention in which they really took part.

Ideaists Are Disappointed
A few of the leaders who had high ideals of what the part of women should be in party politics have been disappointed. But most of them concede that a wedge has been entered into the inner circle which will, in time, give real "fifty-fifty" results.

Last night, when the men were holding conferences all over the place, with a view to getting things done, many of the women were a mystified or a stunned expression. So, this was political. Nothing accomplished on the floor and heaven knows what was going on behind closed hotel room doors. But they found that they were just as much "in" things as most of the men and few of them let it worry them.

With the obvious lack of leadership among the men the women might have put themselves across earlier. Probably if the women had realized before they got here how few personalities among the men would stand even an inch or two above the crowd, they

would have attempted to "sell" some of the fine personalities they had among their own number.
Mrs. Corinne Roosevelt Robinson, with a little more booming, might have become the spectacular figure of the convention. Her speech yesterday seconding General Wood was obviously the hit of the day and her power came as a great surprise to most of the men. But Mrs. Robinson has been seeking nothing for herself in this convention and her belief in Leonard Wood is the chief motive for her coming.

Butler Makes Innovation

The campaigners for Nicholas Murray Butler were the first to announce that a woman would make one of their speeches. Helen Varick Boswell was chosen to second Dr. Butler. Miss Boswell has attended seven Republican conventions. She was an ardent party worker before she was enfranchised and has looked on many times, little realizing that some day she would not only have a place among the delegates but would make a speech for a Presidential candidate's nomination.

Following suit on the Butler forces' move, nearly all the other factions had women make seconding speeches. Mrs. Corinne Roosevelt Robinson for Leonard Wood, Mrs. Fletcher Dobyns for Governor Lowden, Mrs. Alexandra Carlisle Pfeiffer for Governor Coolidge, Mrs. Katherine Phillips Edison for Hiram Johnson, and Mrs. James W. Morrison for Herbert Hoover, making the feature of the day's work.

Mrs. Robinson's speech was the surprise and the hit of the day. Reactionaries among the men, men who do not believe in woman suffrage, said she was the best speaker on the program, bar none. They could not say enough fine things about her and the matter of sex was entirely forgotten. A few of them accounted for her unusual ability by the fact that she was Theodore Roosevelt's sister. Said one reactionary:

"For the first time in my life I have seen an argument for women keeping their maiden names. If Senator Lodge had not introduced Mrs. Robinson as Corinne Roosevelt Robinson many of us would not have known who she was."

None of the women's speeches had anything like the disagreeable effect of that made for Hiram Johnson by Charles Wheeler. Nor did any of the women indulge in platitudes as did

every man speaking on the program. But the point that won for the women with the crowd was the fact that they knew how to say something briefly.

It really took the speeches made by women yesterday to make many of the men realize that the women were here for something besides the pink teas and elaborate dinners with which Chicago society has showered them. The change which has come about since Monday in the way in which the women's part in the convention has been handled in the local newspapers is indicative of the change of the women's place in the convention.

At first the stories were all about what Chicago's "four hundred" was doing for well-known visitors. Then there were notes made on this woman or that woman, what she thought of being a delegate or whether she was the oldest or the youngest in the convention.

To-day, however, there were no personalities played. There was simply the news of what the women had done.

Believe They Awakened Confidence

Many of the women believe they have made great strides. If they have not put across anything except the fact that they are not curiosities but regular members and workers in the organization they are satisfied. Any new voting body should be worked in

gradually and sanely, according to most of the women. The great effect of their part in this convention will be the awakening of confidence in others.

A few of them condemn the delay by the men in getting things done. They point to federation of clubs conventions and cite the brevity with which things have been accomplished by women, even when there were great factions working against one another.

The women cannot but feel that they showed up well in the party's platform, that they were well represented on committees and on state delegations. The matter of equal representation on the executive committee of the national committee was not settled satisfactorily to many of them, but others believe the seven extra members given to women will make it possible for women to come to the next convention with ability to get full "fifty-fifty" representation.

Among the women convention workers has been the Council of One Hundred, an advisory body of two women from each state. This organization was in Chicago before the convention started and had its final meeting to-day. Republican women, through the council, will send representatives back to every state in the Union with an idea of what is still needed and of what a big convention really is.

Bermuda to Celebrate Tercentenary October 7

Two Festive Occasions Will Be Combined When Prince of Wales Arrives

HAMILTON, Bermuda, May 27.—Bermuda, the oldest remaining British "plantation," is preparing to celebrate its tercentenary this autumn, for which purpose 10,000 has been appropriated. Since the Prince of Wales announced that he meant to pay a call on his loyal subjects, they hit on the scheme of combining two festive occasions and having one grand affair on October 7, when the Renown, with the heir to the throne aboard, is to cast anchor here.

It was August 1, 1620, that the Colonial Parliament held its first sitting, but as the royal engagements cannot very well be altered it was thought wise to set back the gala date. For nearly 300 years the business of governing this little outpost of the empire has gone on under the same forms without material change. It is but natural that the 20,000 inhabitants

of this twenty square miles of coral rock should wish to honor their aged constitution.

Originally founded by a shipwrecked company under Sir George Somers, destined for Virginia in 1609, the islands have remained continuously under British rule.

Revenues are raised chiefly from tariff duties. No land taxes are levied by the colony. There is a very light tax on realty in the parishes and the proceeds are used for maintenance of the poor.

There are no divorce laws in Bermuda and only one breach-of-promise case was ever tried here. Most of the cases on the calendar involve bicycle stealing, assault and petty theft. There is little serious crime, though in a region where every one rides a wheel the theft of a bicycle is regarded somewhat as horse stealing was in the West a few years ago.

There are old-timers here who have never set eyes on a train or a trolley car, but of late they have had the satisfaction of seeing flying boats circling through the air.

Innovations of any kind are apt to be looked on with some suspicion. The majority is conservative, and that is perhaps why so much sentiment is attached to the coming celebration of the 300-year-old constitution.



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